

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/519,526

Examiner

Kimberly D Flynn

Applicant(s)

MINAKUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment and request for consideration filed October 22, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 March 2000 and 11 March 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

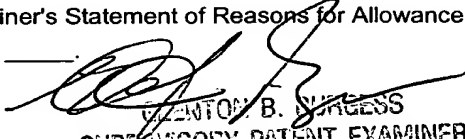
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


VINCENT B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-10 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to an information distribution control system comprising a sync control server that adds a time stamp to the stream information capable of being reproduced in real time and adds the sync time information to the storage-type information so that the stream information and the storage-type information are reproduced in temporal synchronism with each other based on the time stamp and the sync time information in a plurality of clients.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 4, and 6 each recite, *inter alia*,
a client that is connected to a network and is configured for receiving a stream information and a storage-type information;

a stream server that is connected to the network and includes a stream information distribution apparatus for distributing the stream information in real time, by way of a first network control unit to the client through the network, and a time information addition control unit which adds a first time information to the stream information; and

a storage-type information server that is connected to the network for distributing the storage-type information to the client through the network;

a second time-information addition control unit which adds a second time information to the storage-type information; and

a sync control server that is connected to the network by way of a second network control unit and controls synchronization of the stream information and the storage-type information in

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the client through the network in such a manner as to produce the stream information and the storage-type information in temporal synchronism with each other based on the first time information and the second time information.

Applicant's invention of claims 1, 4, and 6 comprise a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art, in particular, the invention teaches that sync control server is not in the client, but rather a separate device connected to the network, so that the control is accomplished through the network. The prior art of record teaches that the control of the synchronization is established in the subscriber PC or client. These steps, in combination with the remaining steps of the claim and adjoining dependent claims are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Applicant's independent claims 7-10, each recite, *inter alia*, the method, apparatus, and computer readable recording medium comprising the steps of:

adding a first information to a stream information distributed from a stream information distributed from a stream information distribution apparatus to a client through a network, the stream information being produced in real time; adding a second time information to storage-type information distributed to the client through the network; and controlling synchronization of the stream information and the storage-type information in the client through the network in such a manner as to produce the stream information and the storage-type information in temporal synchronism with each other based on the first time information and the second time information. These steps in combination with the remaining steps of claims 7-10 and the adjoining dependent claims are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art of record.

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Accordingly, Applicant's arguments are persuasive and the claims are allowed for those reasons and the reasons stated above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

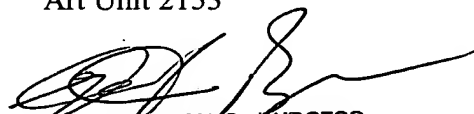
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly D Flynn whose telephone number is 571-272-3954. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess can be reached on 703-305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KDF

Kimberly D Flynn
Examiner
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